



**EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 24**  
**Series of 2020**

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING URGENT AND APPROPRIATE MEASURES AS  
REGARDS TO THE THREAT OF COVID-19 IN THE PROVINCE OF BATAAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Constitution of 1987 decrees that "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Corona Virus 2019 (COVID-19) as Pandemic, and the Department of Health (DOH) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, Proclamation No. 922, entitled as "Declaring a State of Public Health Emergency Throughout the Philippines", was issued last March 8, 2020, enjoining all government agencies and local government units to undertake urgent and appropriate measures to prevent the spread, mobilize necessary resources, and render full assistance to prevent the spread of Corona Virus and curtail the threat of COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, the Office of the Presidential Spokesperson officially announced that Code Alert System for COVID-19 in the Philippines is raised to Code Red Sublevel 2;

**WHEREAS**, it was also officially announced that based on the discussions with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), the President has decided to approve the imposition of Stringent Social Distancing Measures in the National Capital Region (NCR) for thirty (30) days, effective March 15, 2020, advising Local Government Units (LGUs) to abide by the following guidelines:

- a) A barangay-wide quarantine is advised when there at least two (2) positive COVID-19 cases belonging to different households in the same barangay;
- b) A municipality/city-wide quarantine is advised when there at least two (2) positive COVID-19 cases belonging to different barangays in the same municipality/city;
- c) A province-wide quarantine is advised when there at least two (2) positive COVID-19 cases belonging to different municipalities, component cities or independent component cities in the same province; and
- d) LGUs, which have imposed community quarantine in their respective jurisdiction/s, upon the declaration of a State of Calamity, shall be allowed to access their Quick Response Fund.
- e) In addition, LGUs outside of the National Capital Region are advised to exercise sound discretion in suspending classes in their respective localities.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the confirmation of the Secretary of Health on local transmission of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Presidential Proclamation No. 922, Declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines, it is imperative to establish urgent and appropriate measures to prevent and curtail the spread of COVID-19;



**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALBERT S. GARCIA, Governor of Bataan, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:**

**SECTION 1. Coverage.** – This Executive Order shall cover all public places, schools/colleges/universities, public utility vehicles, and establishments in the Province of Bataan.

**SECTION 2. Schools, Universities, and Colleges.** – Classes in all levels, whether public or private, are suspended indefinitely.

**SECTION 3. Mass Gatherings, Crowd Activities and Religious Activities.** – Mass gatherings and religious activities are strongly discouraged until such time that the state of public health emergency is lifted; these gatherings and crowd activities includes those of local government units.

**SECTION 4. Mall and Market Operations.** – Malls and department stores' operators are encouraged to limit operating hours, except in the case of groceries and public markets.

**SECTION 5. Alternative Work Arrangement Options in Government Agencies, LGUs, other Government Institutions, and Private Entities.** – Government offices may adopt either or both of the following work arrangements:

- a. Four-day workweek – the individual's workweek is reduced to four (4) days but the number of work hours per day is increased to 10 hours so the total number of required work hours per weeks shall not be less than 40 hours. Concerned agencies shall ensure that the normal work week is maintained.
- b. Shifting – agencies shall strategize that the shifting of employees shall still meet the required 40 hours per week. Shifting refers to the existing 24/7 shifting schedule and shifting of assignments to perform frontline services.

Agency heads shall ensure that workers providing essential services such as health workers, first responders, frontline service providers, and the like, are provided support mechanisms such as: health interventions, stress debriefing, and appropriate technologies to minimize face to face contact.

Agencies may formulate their internal rules and regulations governing the implementation of the alternative work arrangements in accordance with these guidelines, to be submitted to the CSC thru the CSC Regional Offices.

The alternative work arrangements shall be adopted for the duration of the State of Public Health Emergency.

Private entities may adopt the foregoing alternative work arrangement, without prejudice to any mandate of the Department of Labor and Employment, while the State of Public Health Emergency is subsisting.

**SECTION 6. Suspension of Travel of Government Officials and Employees.** – All travels of government officials and employees in the Province of Bataan, whether official or not, are suspended until lifted.

**SECTION 7. Effectivity.** – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.  
**SO ORDERED.**

**DONE** this 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, in the Province of Bataan.



**ALBERT S. GARCIA**  
Governor